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THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 23 July 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a declaration which was issued today by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Burundi.

I would be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 43 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) John H. F. CAMPBELL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/51/150.

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Declaration issued by the Presidency on 23 July 1996 on behalf of the European Union on Burundi

The European Union expresses grave concern at the deteriorating situation in Burundi, especially at the killing of civilians and other gross violations of human rights which continue to be perpetrated in that country. It vehemently condemns the massacre of civilians in the Bugendana camp for displaced persons on 19 July last and deplores the expulsions of Rwandan refugees against their will. This massacre, following as it does those at Gishubi, Kivyuka, Teza, Mutoyi, Songa and Kamenge, represents a new stage in the vortex of violence, action and reaction, putting Burundi at risk of being drawn ever further into a civil war, the effects of which would be catastrophic for the people of Burundi.

The European Union calls on all Burundians to turn away from violence and move single-mindedly along the road to a peaceful and negotiated solution of their problems. It would point to the undertakings given on 25 June 1996 at Arusha during the Summit of Heads of State of the region in favour of dialogue open to all sectors of Burundi's population together with provision of the security measures needed to create the conditions for such dialogue. It would also point out that these undertakings were given formal backing by the Heads of State and Government of the entire continent of Africa when they met from 8 to 10 July at Yaoundé under the aegis of the Organization of African Unity.

The European Union believes that only compliance with the undertakings given at Arusha and their swift implementation can restore a climate of confidence and prevent Burundi from becoming embroiled in a generalized conflict. As it has already stressed in the Council's statement of 15 and 16 July, the European Union reiterates that it is prepared to assist in pursuit of the Arusha objectives in order to restore peace and security in Burundi and it supports the efforts of former President Nyerere and the countries of the region to achieve this.